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FROZEN FOOD LOCKER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Eighteenth Annual Count, January 1955

By L. B. Mann

Frozen Food Locker Branch

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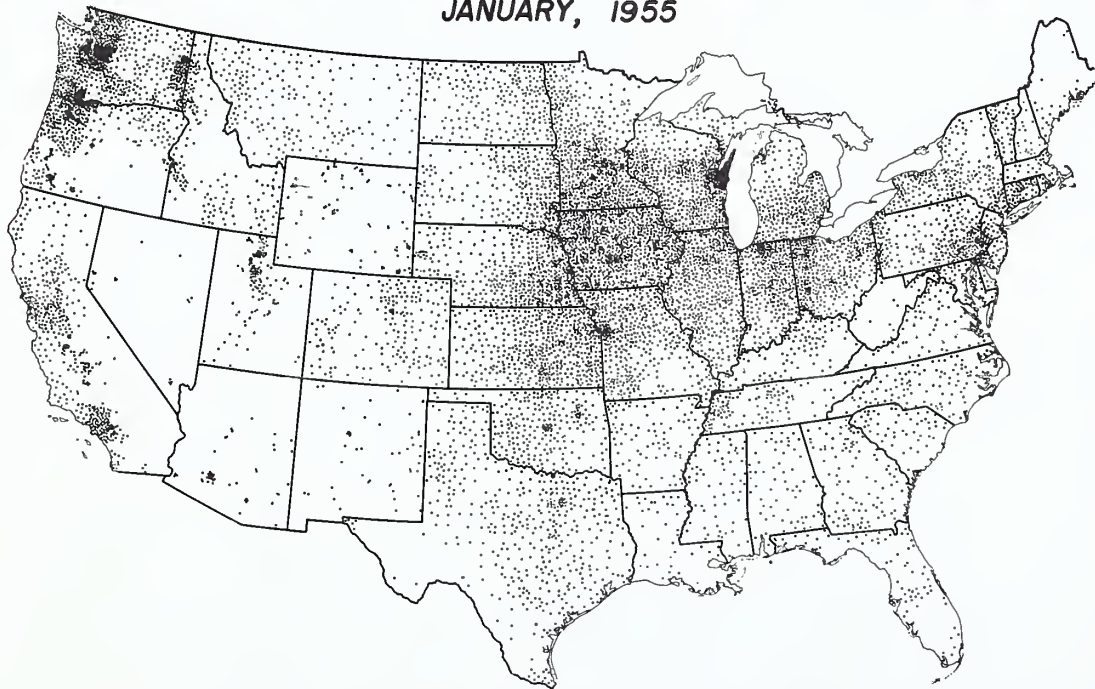
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Frozen food locker plants operating in the United States in January 1955 totalled 10,553. Since they opened for business, the majority of these plants have expanded their services and increased their volume of business and the number of patrons they serve. In number of plants, Iowa led with 824, Washington came second with 683, and Minnesota, third with 647.

In spite of a decline of about 1,000 plants since the peak year of 1951 -- a situation frequently taking place in a new industry -- the survey made in 1955 of the entire locker industry shows that the number of families served by locker plants in 1954 totalled over 5.1 million as compared with 4.3 million reported in a similar survey made in 1950. Likewise the volume of food processed by locker plants for locker and home freezer patrons increased from 1.2 billion pounds in 1949 to 1.4 billion pounds in 1954.

Frozen Food Locker Plants Operating JANUARY, 1955



PURCHASING DIVISION
FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Locker plant count by States, January 1955

Alabama	66	Maine	19	Ohio	391
Arizona	47	Maryland	42	Oklahoma	228
Arkansas	93	Massachusetts	27	Oregon	487
California	461	Michigan	317	Pennsylvania	276
Connecticut	55	Minnesota	647	Rhode Island	5
Colorado	208	Mississippi	66	South Carolina	51
Delaware	9	Missouri	438	South Dakota	294
Florida	69	Montana	207	Tennessee	106
Georgia	103	Nebraska	509	Texas	473
Idaho	165	Nevada	17	Utah	130
Illinois	518	New Hampshire	20	Vermont	45
Indiana	324	New Jersey	55	Virginia	69
Iowa	824	New Mexico	50	Washington	683
Kansas	523	New York	246	West Virginia	19
Kentucky	90	North Carolina	98	Wisconsin	630
Louisiana	39	North Dakota	225	Wyoming	89

United States total 10,553 plants

Net zero storage space in locker plants and in homes totalled approximately 120 million cubic feet in January 1955, as compared with an estimated 63 million cubic feet in 1950. This large zero storage space is capable of holding at one time nearly 3.6 million pounds of perishable food.

In this new method of food merchandising, locker plants are important as processors and merchandisers of frozen food in wholesale quantity lots to locker and home freezer users.

Number of frozen food locker plants
operating by years, 1938-1955

Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants
1938	1,269	1944	5,282	1950	11,569
1939	1,861	1945	6,484	1951	11,608
1940	2,870	1946	8,025	1952	11,427
1941	3,623	1947	9,529	1953	10,954
1942	4,323	1948	10,617	1954	10,854
1943	4,559	1949	11,245	1955	10,553

Note: Appreciation is expressed to officials of State Departments of Agriculture, State Extension Services, and State and National locker associations for their cooperation in providing information, and to Miriam Cleveland of the Farmer Cooperative Service for assistance in assembling data in the preparation of this report.